

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Lance Corporal Matthew Ryan Barnes.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Matthew Ryan Barnes upon his death in ground combat action in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes was a native of Ouachita Parish, where he grew to be a solid, straight and strong young man whose athletic abilities lead him to play football for West Monroe High School; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from high school in 2003, Lance Corporal Barnes enrolled in studies at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, however, he felt such a profound love for his country that he decided in 2004 to leave his hometown, family, and friends behind and serve in America's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes quest to serve led him to the Marine Corps, where he enlisted and became a member of the legendary fighting force which has participated in every war and conflict that the United States has engaged in since its creation in 1775; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes athletic abilities were of great assistance to him as he endured the rigors of Marine Corps boot camp training, considered by many to be the most demanding of all the armed services; and

1 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes left the Parris Island, South Carolina, training
2 facility for assignment to the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division at
3 Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

4 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes and the men of his unit were deployed to Iraq
5 in August, 2005, where they were given the mission of stopping terrorist forces attempting
6 to disrupt the fledgling democracy; and

7 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes distinguished himself by his brave and steady
8 operation of his fire team's mounted .50-caliber machine gun on patrols, sweeps, and
9 security details; and

10 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes, wise beyond his twenty years of age, was in the
11 course and scope of his mission on February 14, 2006, when he and the men of his unit
12 encountered terrorist forces near Qaim, Iraq, in the form of suicide car bombers, who
13 attacked his vehicle using tactics that violated all known and accepted rules of engagement
14 and mortally wounded the marine and a comrade; and

15 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Barnes' outstanding service exemplifies all things that
16 are good and right about America and sets a high standard of conduct and behavior for all
17 who remember and enjoyed his company and who also brought great credit upon himself,
18 his fellow marines and the grateful nation which he gave his life defending.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
20 does hereby extend its most sincere condolences and deepest sorrow to the family of United
21 States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Matthew Ryan Barnes for their immeasurable sacrifice
22 and loss in America's War on Terror.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 family of Lance Corporal Matthew Ryan Barnes.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Marionneaux

SR No. 44

Expresses condolences to the family of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Matthew Ryan Barnes upon his death in combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom.